

## ABSTRACT

A photovoltaic element is provided which has at least a photovoltaic layer and a transparent electrode layer deposited on a metal substrate, a  
5 portion of the transparent electrode layer being continuously removed at a peripheral part of the metal substrate, wherein an island-shaped transparent-electrode-layer-removed-portion is provided in the transparent electrode layer in a  
10 power-generating region surrounded by the removed portion of the transparent electrode layer, a rear surface side bus-bar electrode electrically connected to the metal substrate is disposed on the rear surface side of the metal substrate at the rear of  
15 the island-shaped transparent-electrode-layer-removed-portion, and the rear surface side bus-bar electrode is connected to the metal substrate at a portion corresponding to the island-shaped transparent-electrode-layer-removed-portion, and  
20 which can enhance the degree of freedom for the shape of a photovoltaic element module while ensuring the reliability of the photovoltaic element.